

A Disappointed Russian.

One of the most disappointed men in Melbourne at the present time is Henry George Abrahamovitch, a Russian, in the prime of life, who travelled 4000 miles from the bush to enlist in the A.I.F., only to be rejected when he entered camp owing to defective eyesight. A fine specimen of a man physically, Abrahamovitch was passed for service by the examining doctor at the Town Hall recruiting depot. Three days later, on producing a certificate of nationality from the Russian consul, he was sworn in for service. Delighted and proud beyond measure at the prospect of serving with the Australian forces, he stood "treat" to his friends during the day; gave away most of his clothes, and then next morning, clad in his working garments—practically the only belongings which he had retained—he reported at the Sturt-street depot for training. As a concession to the conventions of military life he had before attending at Sturt-street willingly sacrificed a beard of great length and thickness, of which he was inordinately proud. His dismay, therefore, can be understood when a few hours later, after an examination at Broadmeadows camp, he was told by the doctor that his eyesight was not good enough to serve him as a soldier. In vain Abrahamovitch protested that he could shoot as well from the left shoulder as the right. He was sent back to Melbourne, and the principal medical officer, to whom he appealed for a further examination, confirmed the view that his eyesight precluded his enlistment.

Abrahamovitch is still hopeful that the military authorities may be able to make some use of his services. He is a capable linguist, and is prepared to do anything which may provide him with an opportunity of doing his bit for the Union Jack, under which, he says, he has lived for twelve years. Although not a Britisher by birth, his loyalty and enthusiasm for the cause of the Allies might well serve to shame into a sense of duty some of the men more closely allied to the British Empire, who have thus far allowed the call to arms to go unheeded.

The State Commandant, when he learned yesterday of Abrahamovitch's anxiety to serve at the front in any capacity, undertook to accord him an interview with a

took to accord him an interview with a view to ascertaining whether his services could not be utilised in some way.